

A Bright Future for ICT: Continuing Growth in Tertiary Enrolments & Jobs

Garry Robertson

School of Information Technology
Waikato Institute of Technology (Wintec)

Garry.roberton@wintec.ac.nz

Introduction

ICT jobs advertised on Seek IT NZ and Trademe fell dramatically, following the global recession in September 2008. The low point, however, was short lived and by September 2009 ICT job advertisements on both Seek NZ and Trademe were, once again, on the rise.

The increasing demand for graduates with the right combination of knowledge and skills was also highlighted throughout 2010 in various national and international publications.

The author continues to monitor ICT job and tertiary enrolment trends and to publish the results in a series of monthly PowerPoint slides on the CITRENZ web site, together with commentary.

Content

Data from the Seek and Trademe web sites is ac-

cessed on the 15th of each month to chart the ICT job advertisement trends (Fig 1). These monthly records, together with national and international commentary regarding ICT trends, are published on the CITRENZ web site <http://www.naccq.ac.nz/index.php/job-trends> (Accessed May 2011).

ICT EFTS (Equivalent Full Time Students) trends in the ITP sector have been charted from 2002 and are steadily increasing, following prolonged period of decline from 2002 to 2007 (Fig 2).

The ICT job advert monthly series for 2011 has been expanded to include a variety of job categories to indicate demand for programming languages and for industry certifications.

Conclusion

The following extract from the NZ Herald perhaps best expresses the current state of the ICT industry

in NZ:

ICT Needs to Up Their Game (Jane Kennelly; director of Frog Recruitment)

"The ICT sector is full of amazing opportunities.....but the industry doesn't seem to be able to showcase itself in a way that makes it understandable or inviting.....It's an area where we're going to have a [skills] shortage.....If young people aren't attracted into industries with skills shortages the only option is to bring people in from overseas"

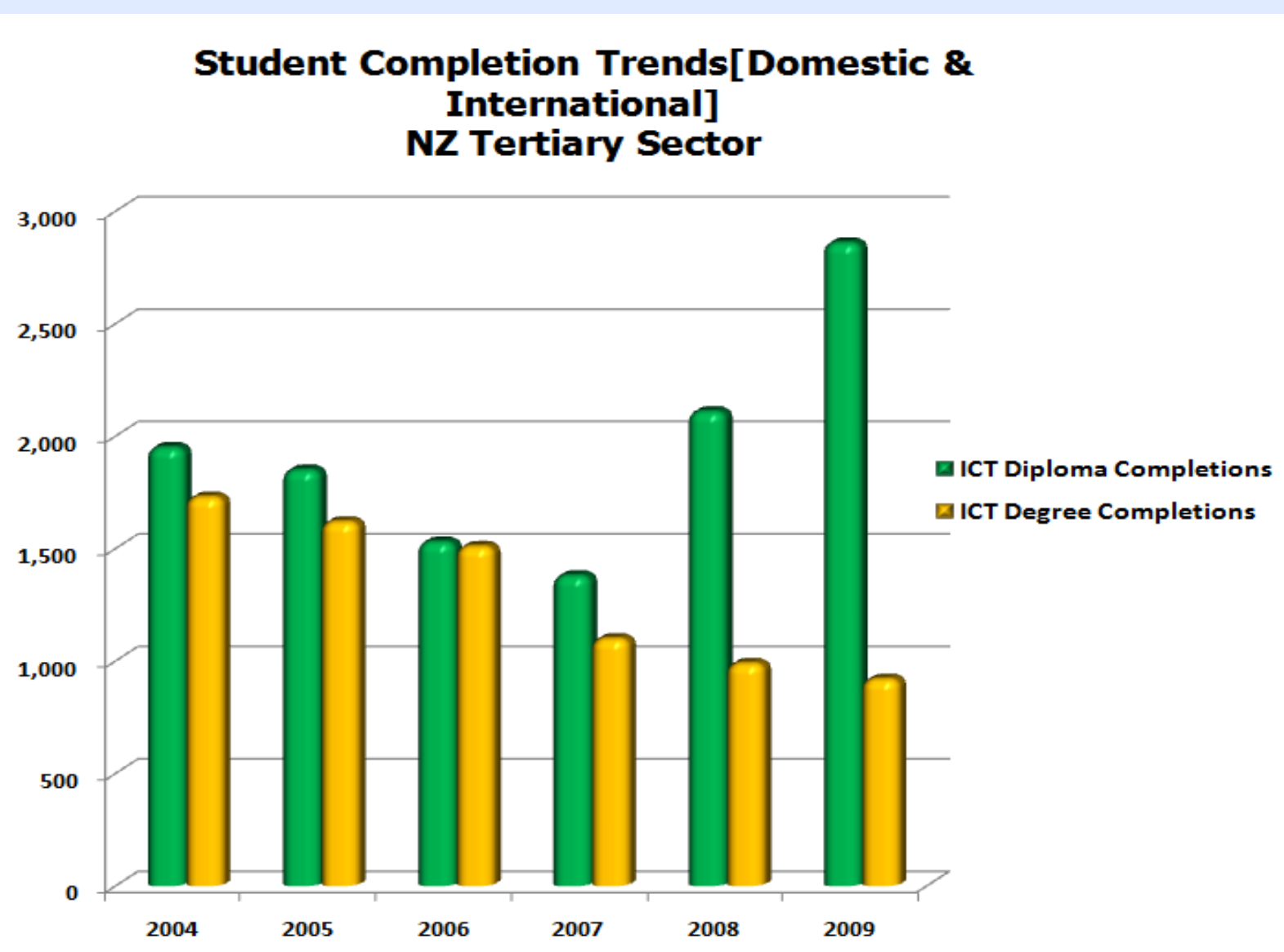
Source: NZ Herald, Education Supplement

References

[Seek IT & T Jobs](#) (Accessed April 2011)

[NACCQ EFTS Data](#) (Accessed May 2011)

NZ Herald, Education Supplement, 26th January 2011



ICT Degrees NZ - Declining Completion Rate

- Suggested reasons for the decline in ICT degree completions include;
 - Falling enrolments, both domestic and international
 - Students changing their degree major after commencing
 - Dropping out and/or exiting with a diploma
 - Gaining a job before completing

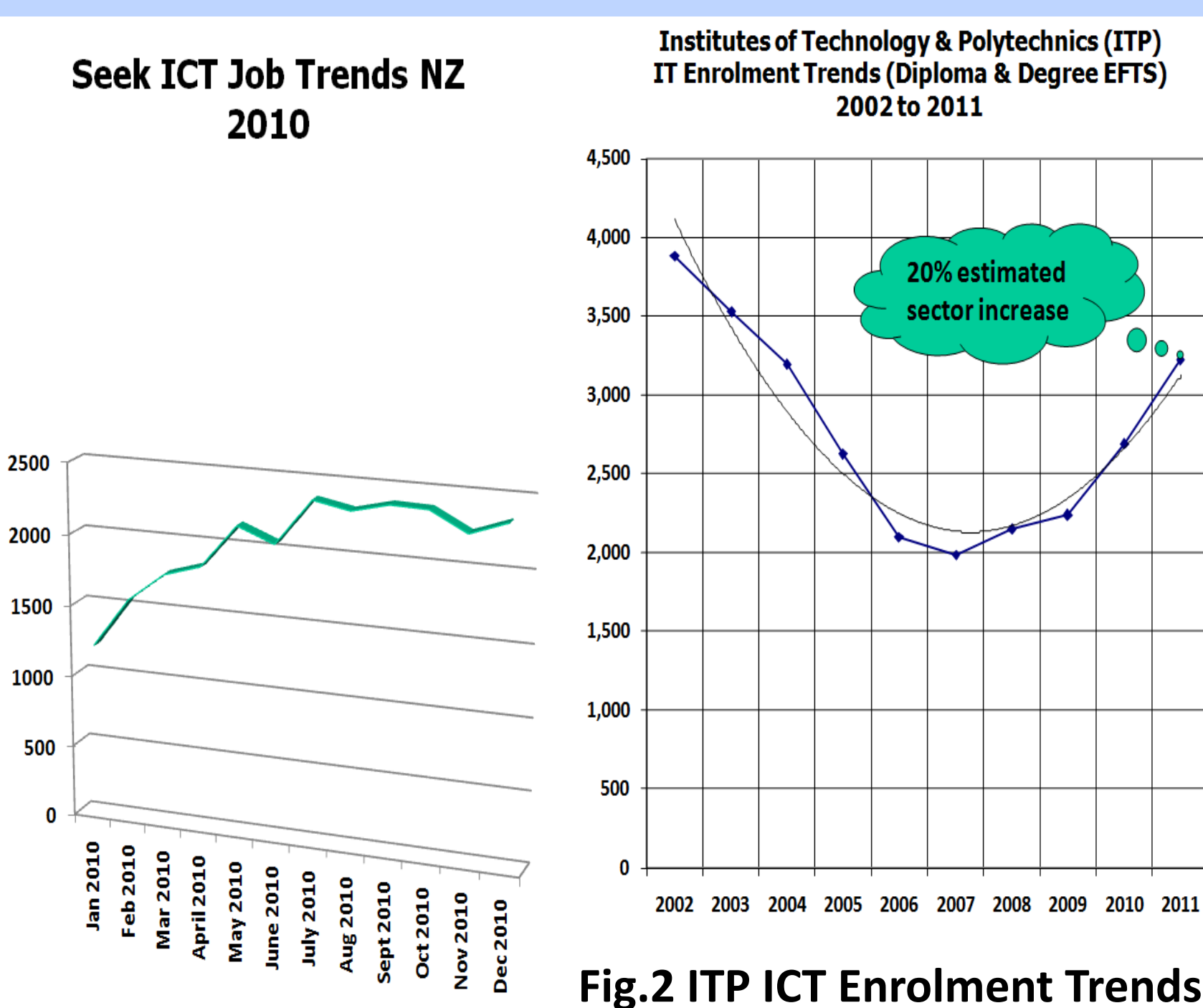
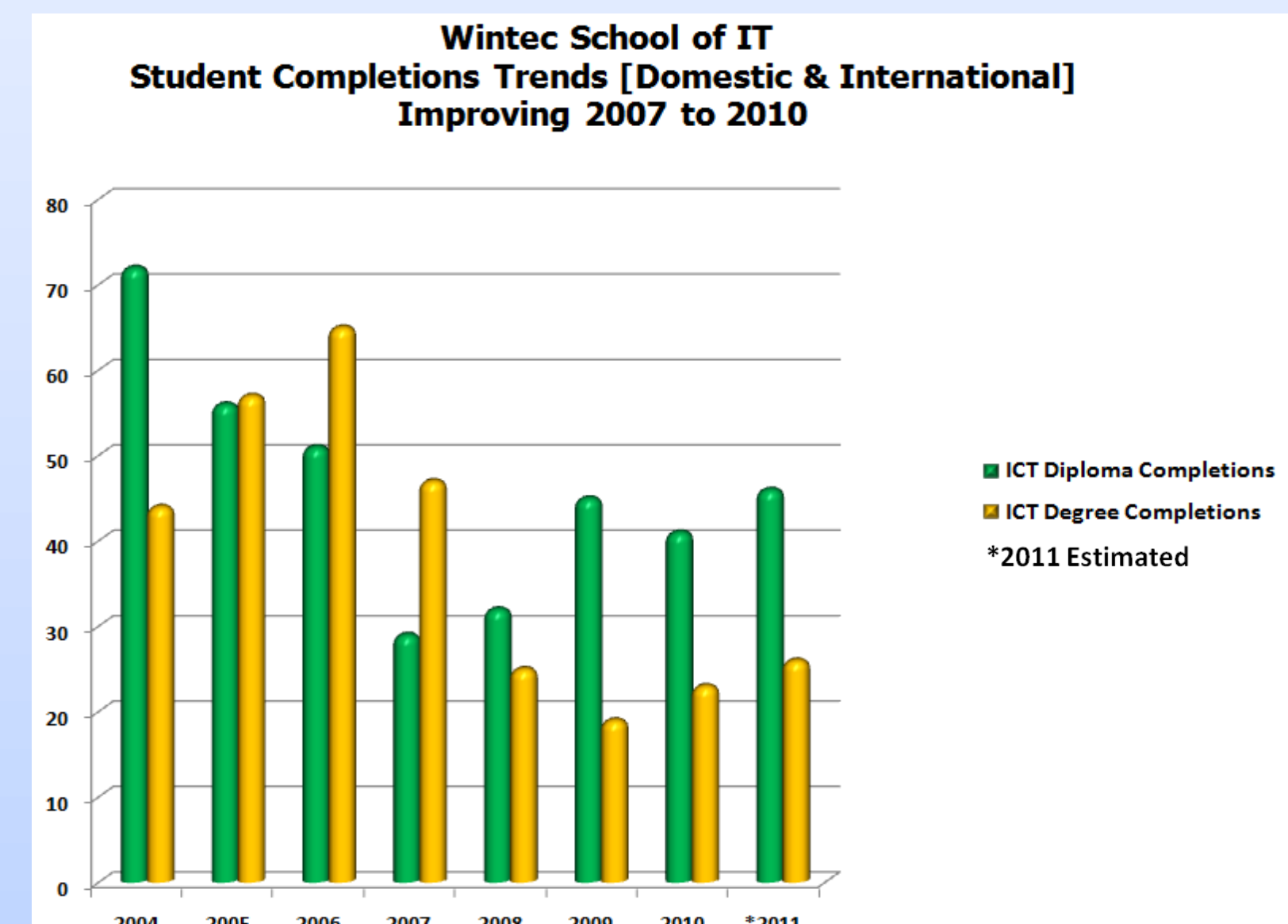


Fig.2 ITP ICT Enrolment Trends

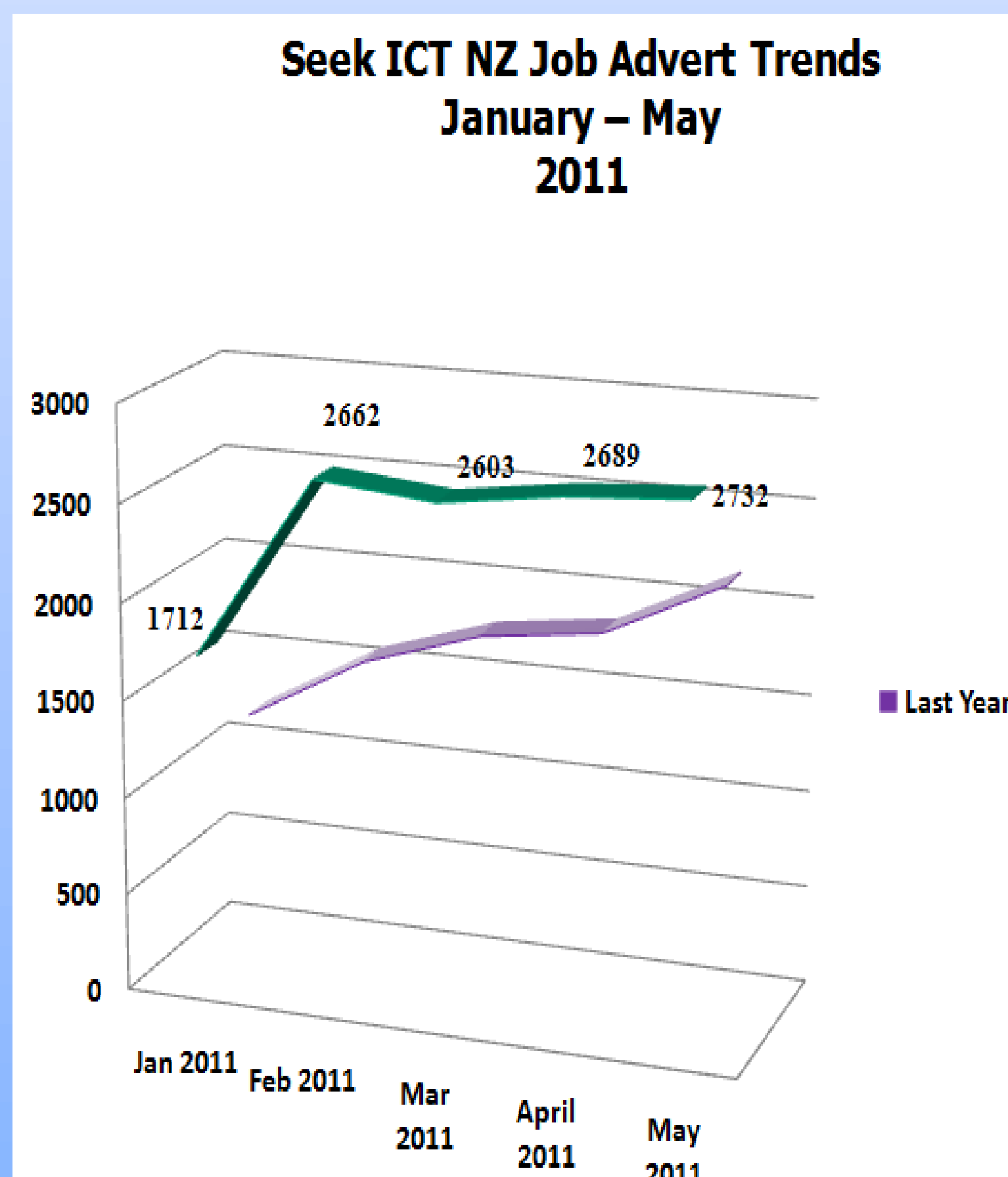
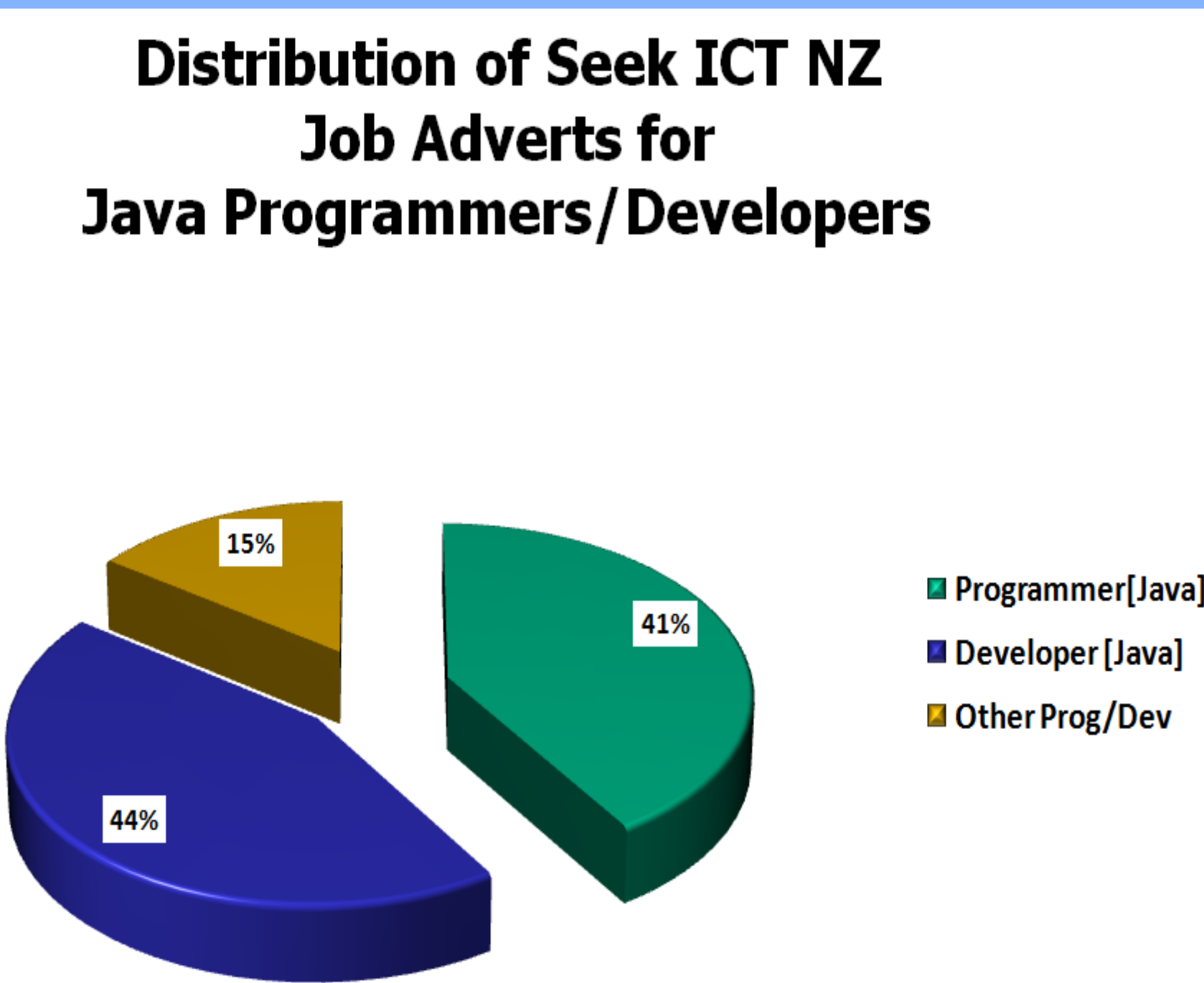
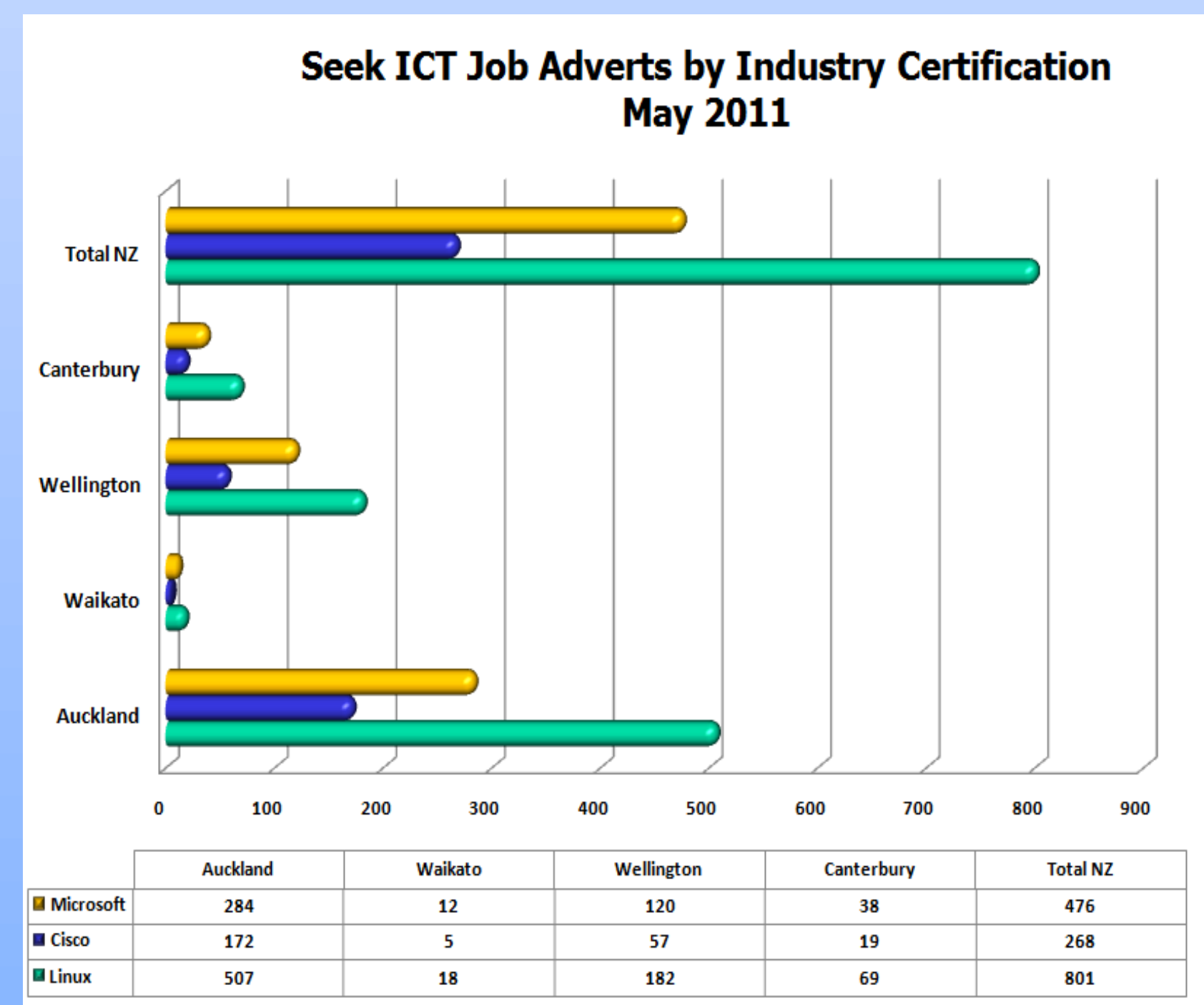
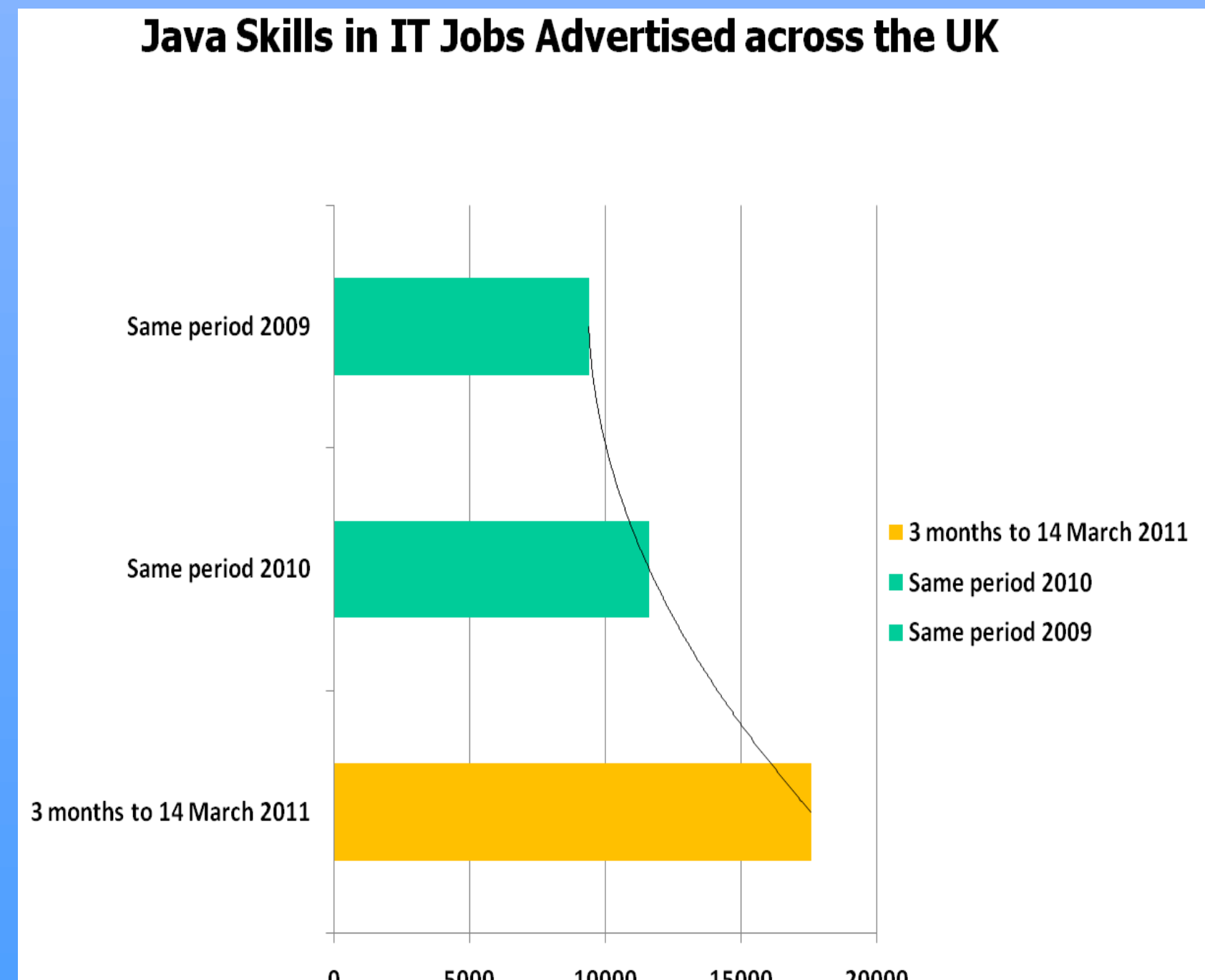
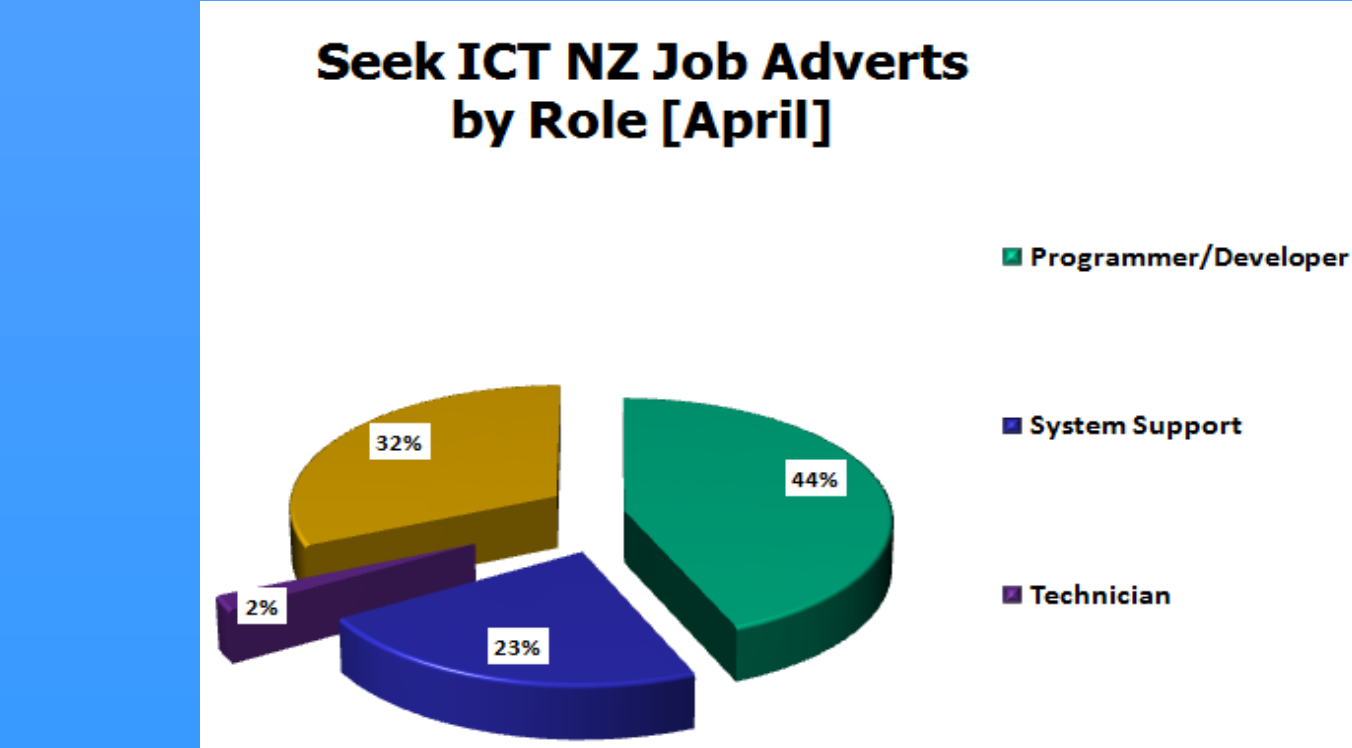
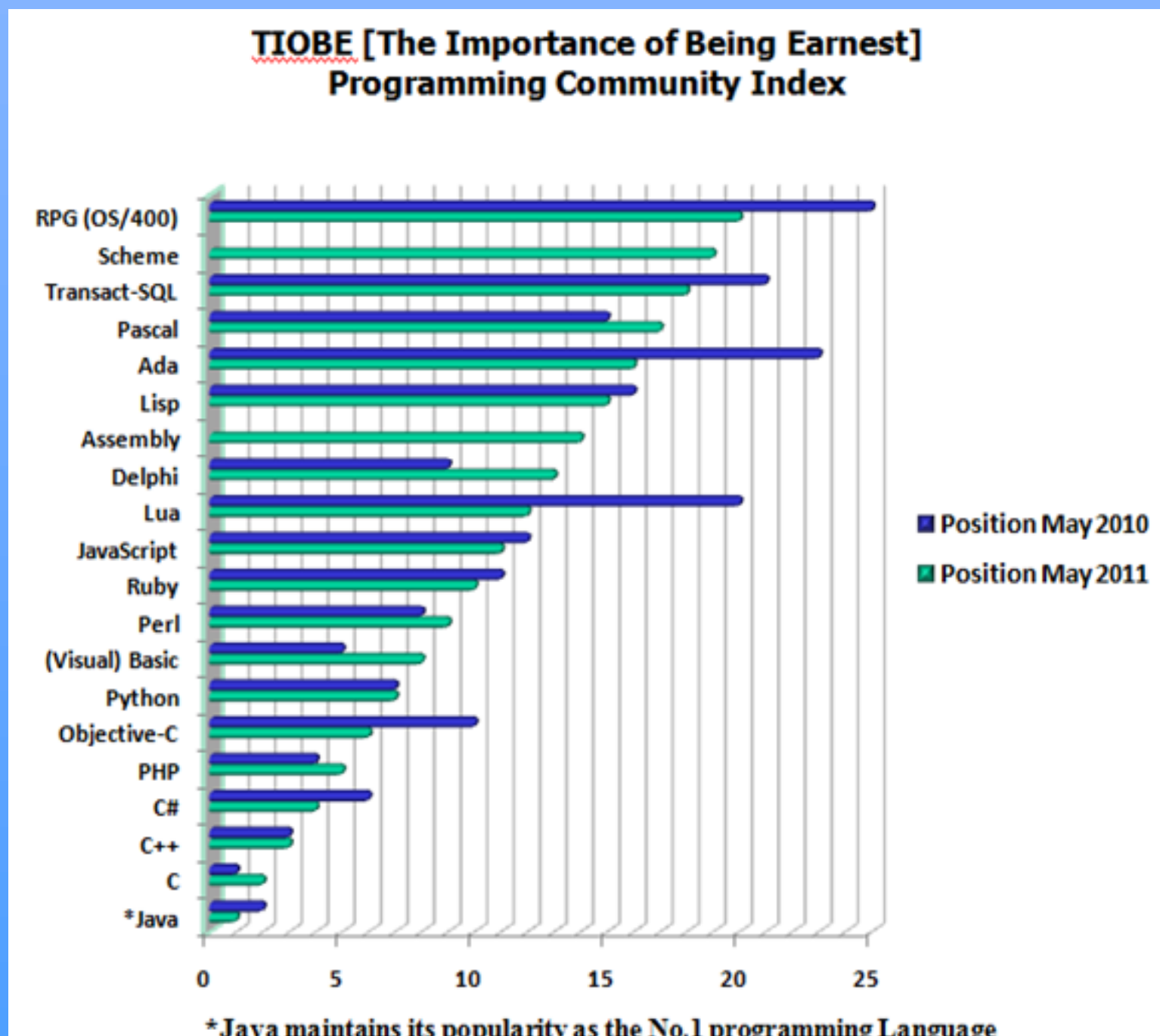


Fig.1 IT & T Job Advert Trends for NZ as at May 2011



NZ Firms Hunt for Skills Edge [HeraldJobs Special Report: IT & Telecommunications]

- People with strong IT skills are in short supply;
 - Strong demand for people across the board
 - Skills shortage hotspots include;
 - SAP sector
 - Java development
 - .NET development



Canada: New Brunswick Information Technology Council

- Program to grow ICT enrolment announced [Apr 27, 2011]
- Launching "The Class of 2011" program targeted at encouraging more youth to pursue careers in ICT
- Up to 25 high-school students from the 2011 graduating class to be given firm commitments of an ICT job on graduation from University or Community College with a related degree or diploma
- Sends a clear message that "the jobs are there and they're not going away"
- Aim:
 - To help make post-secondary education more accessible to New Brunswick youth with a technology inclination
 - To encourage more of them to pursue the broader array of opportunities in this field